This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is a time to reflect on the overwhelmingly positive impact this law has made on all of our lives.

In the ADA’s powerful preamble, the intent of Congress is clearly stated: “to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.”

From large corporations to the small business storefronts that line the main streets of towns throughout the nation, organizations have made changes since the ADA was enacted to ensure those employees with barriers to independence are provided the opportunity to contribute on the job, to their families, and to the communities they live in.

Recent advances in technology have taken workplace initiatives even further, empowering greater freedom, efficiency, and equality at the office for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Common office tasks like printing, copying, or faxing are things that people who are sighted take for granted.

Continued on page 5.
ABVI Does “Amazing” Things

Ellen Neisner began volunteering for ABVI in 1975. Little did she know when she became a board member 40 years ago, that someday she would need our services.

Ellen’s time on the Board of Directors encompassed many agency-changing decisions. These decisions helped the organization become what it is today. For example, in the 1970s, Ellen led the search committee for a new executive director. This important decision set the path for the organization for many years to come.

A big change occurred with ABVI’s Reachout Radio program while Ellen was on the Board. Reachout Radio provides around-the-clock readings of print publications for people who are print-handicapped. The service had aired daily from ABVI’s 422 S. Clinton Ave location. During the 1980s, ABVI started working with WXXI. During that time, Reachout Radio transitioned over to WXXI’s facilities. Today, ABVI provides annual funding for Reachout Radio while leaving running the program to the experts at WXXI. The funding ABVI provides helps cover operational costs and also buys the radios for individuals in our community.

Ellen assisted people who are blind in many other ways. For example, for more than 20 years, she drove a woman by the name of Lucille. Lucille helped German prisoners during World War II. The prisoners stayed at the Cobbs Hill POW camp, and Lucille used her radio expertise to give the POWs a way to speak to their loved ones in Germany.

Ellen’s volunteer work began well before ABVI. In the 1960s she volunteered for the League of Women Voters. She also volunteered her time at Rochester City School #6. This was for their reading and motor-skills program. She was also active with the Boy Scouts, who had an ABVI Explorers group.

Later in life, Ellen developed macular degeneration and became legally blind. Little did she know when she began volunteering for ABVI that she would need services from the organization she had given so much to.

“I am impressed with the way ABVI has grown and am amazed at all that you do for people who are blind. Of all the organizations I have been involved in, ABVI impressed me the most,” says Ellen.

Although she no longer donates her time by volunteering, Ellen does still donate to ABVI. She believes in the mission of the organization and ABVI means a lot to her. We are grateful for all that this wonderful person has done to promote the mission of ABVI.
Our Wish List

The kindness and generosity of our donors help us to offer the best and most up-to-date services possible. The following is a list of much needed items that are not covered by ABVI and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes’ budget. To donate funds to purchase any of these items, or to donate the items themselves, please contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, at tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com or (585) 697-5780.

Materials for our Multi-Media Center
People who are blind or visually impaired can easily access the very special services our Multi-Media Center provides. Our dedicated group of Braille transcribers volunteer their time to create materials in Braille such as utility bills, restaurant menus, and entire books. Even though individuals can access a wealth of information through current technology, Braille remains the only form of literacy for those who are unable to see regular or large print. It is truly the window to the world!
- Braille Paper: $1,000 (15,000 pages brailled each year)
- Braille Labelling Materials: $162 (clear adhesive sheets to create Braille labels for books, etc.)
- Book Covers: $348 (1,000 covers for Braille books)

Rugged iPad Case: $90
An iPad has been a wonderful addition to our children’s programming. The iPad is in need of a rugged case to protect it from drops, water, sand, and all of the other messy things that children use. This case would even allow the iPad to be used outside in our new outdoor area, the Exploration Station!

Examination Equipment for Project Eye Care
Project Eye Care is one of our outreach programs that provides eye exams and glasses free of charge for adults in our community who lack appropriate health insurance. The following items are needed in order for our volunteer eye doctors to provide the most efficient eye exams for those who turn to this program for support.
- Lenses to be used during dilated eye exams: $750 (Three lenses at $250 each)
- A slit lamp: $7,000

Wegmans or Tops Gift Cards
Throughout the year, we provide a variety of recreation events for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. These gift cards help to provide refreshments and other items that are used at programs such as holiday parties, Game Night, summer picnics, and much, much more.

Amazon Gift cards
Our new Family Resource Center is a comfortable and cozy place where families of children who are blind or visually impaired can access information specific to the needs of their child, as well as have a quiet family-friendly place to meet with our Vision Rehabilitation staff for support. These gift cards will be used to purchase books and other materials to add to our collection of resources, supporting children and their families.

Books for the GoodGuides® Youth Book Club: $50 per book/reading session for four youth
GoodGuides® is a national youth mentoring program dedicated to providing at-risk youth ages 12 to 17 with positive role models. The goal of our GoodGuides® program is to equip youth to build career plans and learn skills to prepare for school completion, post-secondary training and productive careers. The youth book club will provide the youth of the program the opportunity to read books focusing on overcoming challenges they face, and allow time together to discuss these issues, and how to overcome adversity and succeed. The special thing about this book club is each member will be able to keep the books they read, building their personal library at home and encouraging the love of reading.
Brian Harrington – A Man on the Move

Freedom. It is a word that one would not readily associate with people who are blind or visually impaired. A sighted person looking at a person who is blind or visually impaired using a white cane, a dog guide, or being assisted by a sighted guide may believe that there isn’t a way for this person to live their life freely without, or in spite of, these aides.

There is. Brian Harrington is an example of how to do it. Born with a genetic eye condition that impacted his sight since birth, Brian completely lost his sight in 2012. His life changed at that point. Before, he did not use any adaptive software to see his computer screen and complete his responsibilities as Director of Information Technology Services at the University of Rochester’s School of Nursing. He navigated his world without issue. He loved being active – running, playing with his daughter. Brian had come to ABVI as a youth for services. After the loss of his sight, he turned again to ABVI. He needed services to empower him to overcome the obstacles posed by being blind.

ABVI’s staff taught Brian to travel using a white cane and provided instruction on using his computer with adaptive software. Brian says this support prepared him to tackle his daily activities.

“I was able to keep my job at the U of R. ABVI played an instrumental part in that,” says Brian.

Kathy Rideout, Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Rochester, and Brian’s manager, was glad ABVI was able to help Brian stay in his position.

“Brian is an amazing individual who we are privileged to have as the Director of IT at the School of Nursing. Brian is a daily inspiration to his colleagues and to me. There is nothing he can’t do,” says Kathy.

Yet, it wasn’t just the freedom to work that ABVI restored. It was also Brian’s ability to be active. He began rowing with Rochester Community Inclusive Rowing. It is the physical aspect of the activity he enjoys the most. But he will often put his hand over the side as they glide the racing shell through the water. He’ll gauge the speed of the boat as his hand goes in the water, the feeling of being free washing over him.

Brian also had the opportunity to play in the 2015 National Beep Baseball World Series of Beep Baseball. He hit and fielded, and had the chance to run without aides to the base. He says it was an “amazing experience” that he was glad to have the chance to do.

By empowering Brian with the skills and abilities to overcome the obstacles to freedom that blindness created, ABVI helped him to continue doing things he loves. It is the reason he donates to ABVI and also serves as a member of the Consumer Advisory Committee. Brian wants others who are blind or visually impaired to be able to have the same feelings of freedom that he has. He’s grateful ABVI is there to help.
Volunteer “Library Ladies” Seek to Serve More Individuals

Every Wednesday morning there is a bustle of activity in the Multi-Media Center on ABVI’s Main Campus. The reason: The Library Ladies are in. This group of dedicated volunteers is composed of Braille transcribers who diligently turn the printed page into the bound Braille books that so many people who are blind or visually impaired use for entertainment and learning.

Braille books require multiple volumes, which means many sheets of Braille paper must be used. The Library Ladies are reporting a shortage of supplies. And, they say, if they don’t have the supplies, they can’t do their jobs. See our “Wish List” on page 3 for ways you can help fund supplies needed for the Multi-Media Center.

Also, the Library Ladies would be happy to serve more people. Items available to borrow for free from the Multi-Media Center can be found online at http://www.seegreatthings.com/Resources/MultiMediaCenter.aspx

And if you want to help out even more, the Library Ladies would be more than happy to accept your donations of large print books.

[Image]

Xerox, continued from page 1.

“We can’t just walk up to the (copy) machine and use it,” says Anne Marie Mistretta, who is a supervisor in ABVI’s Contact Center and who is visually impaired. “We need to ask someone who is sighted for assistance.”

Joe Kells, ABVI’s Director of Sales and Business Development, says that finding adaptable technologies that empower people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient in the workplace is a “key challenge.”

Another Rochester organization recognized this challenge and sought to develop a response. That organization was Xerox. Employees from the copy and printing giant worked with ABVI and other non-profit and government agencies to examine how people get work done, and then applied the right technology for the job. The result is the Xerox Adaptable Accessibility Solution.

According to Xerox, “An Android ™ tablet is at the heart of the Accessibility Solution, mounted on the side of your Xerox printer or multifunction device. The entire unit tilts, making it easily accessible for use when in a wheelchair. It is also audible to assist those who are blind or visually impaired. By simply touching the tablet panel any user can program their document to copy, scan, or print with a robust list of options.”

“Xerox listened and implemented feedback in real time,” says Joe. “ABVI felt very important throughout its role in the innovation process.”
A memorial or honorary gift is a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions, honor a loved one, or pay tribute to the memory of family members or friends. Many generous people have found a way to express their caring spirit while helping to ensure the success of ABVI. As a thank you for your gift, ABVI will list your name and the names of those who you are honoring in our newsletter. We’ll also send a note acknowledging your gift according to your wishes. For more information about making a memorial or honorary gift donation, please contact ABVI’s Development Department at (585) 697-5711. Thank you to the following friends who have made tribute contributions from March 1, 2015 through July 15, 2015.

In memory of Ann M. Ahlheim
Wendy Ahlheim
Judy A. Beal
Derry Burbank-Farmer and William M. Farmer

In honor of Rose Bovenzi
Dorothy Green

In memory of James T. Briggs
Microsoft Corporation – on behalf of Peter Briggs

In memory of Janice Burbank
Wendy Ahlheim
Judy A. Beal

In honor of Maria Teresa Ceravolo
John Samter

In memory of Eli Eckman
Julie and Karl Marsiglio

In memory of Harry Genzken
Tobie and John Olsan

In memory of August Giannavola
Cornerstone Eye Associates

In memory of James Green
Leonard and Germaine Chaput

In memory of Bob Hanley
Timothy and Lori Giar russo

In memory of Ralph Knight
Bill and Peg Rubley

In honor of Jennifer E. Lake
Jane L. Milholland

In memory of Evelyn Lindsley
Cecilia Cerami

In memory of Joan Magee
Sheila and David Abeling
Stewart and Patricia Anderson
Daniel Brooks
Lorraine and Thomas Donaher
Jon Erwin
John and Lynn George
Ted Linsner
Terry and Colleen Magee
Judy Rowley
Sam and Betty Sanderson
Nancy and Alois Schiesel
Kenneth and Betty Schimuhly
Douglas and Susan Schwingel
Judy E. Shafer
Anna Thompson
Gary and Francine Yanni

In memory of Donald Mannara
Emma and James Camello
Joanne DiSalvo
Virginia Gallo
Thomas and Jeanne Mack
Gina Masters
Dennis and Kathleen Meeh
Virginia Serri an
Mary Ellen and Glen Stanton

In memory of Helen Mead
Anne Christman

In memory of Wendy S. Micca
Tracy L. Schleyer

In honor of Anna Mina Palma
Cheri and Robert Charboneau

In honor of Edwin P. Przybylowicz
Diane Ross

In memory of Gina Reger
Ted Andrews
Gerald Balonek, DVM
Ms. Kitty A. Colliflower
Samuel and Marikay Cooper
Elaine M. Cozzarin
Jean Horwitz
Karnal and Patricia Sarbadhikari

In memory of Thelma Slate
Phyllis Kravetz

In honor of Matt Smeltzer
Nikki Llewellyn

In memory of Joanne M. Weaver
St. Pius Tenth School
Jim and Betty Pierce
Lloyd and Mary Schaber
Joe Stamino

In honor of Katherine White-Hitchcock
Alexander Eye Associates
Marty and Grace Quinn
Visionary Eye Associates
Eye Care Distributors
Alden Optical
Marilyn and Alvin Allen
Dennis and Barbara Asselin
Marian Bach
Constance M. Brown
Paul and Joan Casterline
Robert Conway, O.D.
Dr. Ian Cox and Dr. Michele Lagana
James Crable, O.D.
In honor of Katherine White-Hitchcock, contd.
Mary Didonna
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Craig and Barbara Evans
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Wendy and Peter Micca
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Gwen and Richard Sterns
Roger and Barbara VanHouten
Patricia Weisenreder, O.D.
Joyce Zimowski
Teresa Rizzo

In honor of Ruth E. Tetlow
Cheryl and Robert Bond
John and Debra Butler
Catherine Buyer-Davis
Patrick and Kathryn Callahan
Ann and James Clements
Helen and Robert Ehmann
Maryann Fenz
Virginia H. Graham
George and Caryn Hughes
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Kiska Stevens
Richard T. Tetlow
John and Theresa Tetlow
John J. Tetlow
Vera Tetlow
Robert & Sandra Tetlow
William and Deborah Tetlow
Linda L. Warner
Frederick K. Witt

In memory of William J. Wills
Joan Muoio

Join ABVI for the PhotoFinish 5K

On Saturday, October 3, 2015, ABVI will once again hit the streets of Rochester, participating in the 2015 George Eastman House PhotoFinish 5K. With your help, together we can make the George Eastman House PhotoFinish 5K the most impactful fundraising event in the region!

Ways to get involved and support ABVI:

– REGISTER to RUN or WALK the 5K course. Go to http://www.photofinish5k.eastmanhouse.org for more information.

– AND/OR help us fundraise by joining ABVI’s Crowdrise team as a runner, walker, or non-event participant. Go to http://www.CrowdRise.com/ABVI2015 and then click FUNDRAISE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN, join ABVI and create your own individual page.

– FINALLY, do you simply want to make a donation in support of ABVI’s PhotoFinish5K efforts? Then go to http://www.crowdrise.com/ABVI2015 and click on DONATE TO THIS EVENT. If you would like to participate as a Corporate Team, please contact: Sarah Favro at (585) 697-5526 or sfavro@abvi-goodwill.com
Get that Good feeling when you #giveitaway to Goodwill!
Watch the video featuring Country artist Kristian Bush’s (from Sugar Land) hit single “Trailer Hitch” at: https://youtu.be/b7hU3j4h0hs